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DISTRIBUTION II

***R264
R I2304)1BYLCYNUIV
PM-IRAN-OPERATION
WASHINGTON, APRIL 25, REUTER - SIX DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER TRIED HIS RESCUE RAID INTO IRAN, A RETIRED CIA AGENT PUBLISHED A PLAN FOR SUCH A RAID WHICH APPEARED REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO THE EVENTUAL ABORTED SCHEME.
MILES COPELAND, FORMER HEAD OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S POLITICAL ACTION STAFF, OUTLINED A PLAN IN A ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON STAR WHICH CALLED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A STAGING AREA WITHIN HELICOPTER RANGE OF TEHERAN.
HE SAID THAT AT THIS BASE, ''A COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT WILL MONITOR THE OPERATION, KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED AND SOUND A 'WRAP IT UP' (CANCELLATION) SIGNAL IF THINGS GO SOUR ANYWHERE ALONG THE LINE.''
PRESIDENT CARTER INDICATED ON TELEVISION THAT THE COMMANDO LANDING IN A REMOTE DESERT LOCATION SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES SOUTHEAST OF TEHERAN WAS ONLY THE FIRST STAGE AND THAT THE FORCES ORDERED TO GO TO TEHERAN TO FREE THE HOSTAGES HAD NOT YET ARRIVED.
HE CALLED OFF THE MISSION AFTER MECHANICAL TROUBLES DEVELOPED IN RESCUE HELICOPTERS. EIGHT SERVICEMEN WERE KILLED IN AN AIRCRAFT COLLISION AS U.S. FORCES WERE WITHDRAWING.*
MORE 0957 GR

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R I2325)2BYLCYNWYD

¼PM-IRAN-OPERATION 2 WASHINGTON¼

MR COPELAND; WHO WAS AT THE CIA IN THE 1950S WHEN A CIA-ASSISTED OPERATION WAS MOUNTED TO SAVE THE SHAH MOHAMMED REZA PAHLAVI -- NOW IN EXILE IN EGYPT -- FROM A COUP; SAID IN THE ARTICLE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD NOT TOLD HIM ANYTHING ABOUT WHITE HOUSE PLANS.

BUT HE SAID THE ARTICLE HAD BEEN READ BY HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAD AGREED THAT HE SHOULD PUBLISH IT.

MR COPELAND SAID FROM THE INITIAL STAGING BASE THE RESCUE FORCE WOULD MOVE TO A ''PENULTIMATE POSITION;'' GIVEN THE CODE O ''PP;'' CLOSE TO TEHERAN WHERE THE EVENTUAL ATTACK WOULD BE LAUNCHED.

A COMMANDO FORCE KNOWN AS ''TEAM A;'' LOOKING LIKE IRANIANS; WOULD MOVE IN AROUND THE EMBASSY AND POSE AS PROTESTING MILITANTS.

A SECOND FORCE POSING AS IRANIAN SOLDIERS KNOWN AS ''TEAM B'' WOULD ALSO INFILTRATE THE AREA ROUND THE EMBASSY AND WOULD STAGE A PHONY COUNTERATTACK TO CONFUSE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES.

THREE HELICOPTERS BEARING IRANIAN ARMY MARKINGS WOULD FLY IN TO CARRY OUT THE HOSTAGES.¼

MORE 1000 BR

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R I2387)LBYLCYNCYN

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BEFORE THE ATTACK THE EMBASSY COMPOUND WOULD BE SPRAYED WITH NON-LETHAL GAS WHICH WOULD EITHER STUN OR NAUSEATE THE HOSTAGES AND THEIR CAPTORS.

ONE OF THE JOBS OF ''TEAM B'' WOULD BE TO TAKE CONTROL OF ALL COMMUNICATIONS INTO AND OUT OF THE COMPOUND AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE CITY WHICH IN ANY WAY CONCERNED THE COMPOUND; HE SAID.

THE HELICOPTERS WOULD FLY THE HOSTAGES TO A SAFE HAVEN WHERE THEY WOULD EITHER BE FLOWN OUT OF IRAN OR WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OVERLAND BY FRIENDLY IRANIANS IF THE AIR RESCUE WAS NOT POSSIBLE; HE SAID.¼

REUTER 1004 BR

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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ANGERED
OVER U S RESCUE ATTEMPT

WASHN -(DJ)-- SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS EXPRESSED ANGER THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE U.S. ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES IN IRAN AND DEBATED WHETHER THE RESCUE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED.

REP. CLEMENT ZABLOCKI D-WIS. CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SAID MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE PLAN AND SAID HE DID NOT FEEL THE ACTION WAS WISE.

REP. SAMUEL STRATTON D-N.Y. SPECULATED THE MISSION COULD BE A "PLUS FOR CARTER" WHO HAS COME UNDER SOME FIRE FROM THOSE WHO FELT FIRM ACTION WAS WARRANTED IN THE IRANIAN CRISIS.

ABROAD CARTER'S ACTION SURPRISED AMERICA'S ALLIES AND BROUGHT ANGRY CONDEMNATION FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE SOVIET BLOC.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY LAWMAKER TONY BENN SAID "THE LANDING IN IRAN WAS CLEARLY IMPLICATES THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH IS AN ALLY OF THE U.S."

THE STATE RADIO OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA SAID THE MISSION "THREATENED WORLD PEACE" AND GOVERNMENT RADIO IN SYRIA A STAUNCH SOVIET ALLY CALLED THE ACTION "AN ACT OF OVERT AGRESSION."

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